

M E D I A R E L E A S E
STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION



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COVERTN EXCEEDS 1,000 ENROLLEE MARK

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — CoverTN, Governor Phil Bredesen's affordable and portable health insurance initiative for uninsured small businesses, announced today that 1,053 individuals are enrolled in the program. Bredesen launched the program in March, and coverage began April 1. To date, more than 12,000 businesses have pre-qualified.

"We're excited to see that CoverTN is proving popular with Tennessee small businesses," said Bredesen. "By helping businesses succeed, we help Tennessee succeed – and that's what CoverTN is all about."

Enrollment is a two-step process. Once a business is confirmed as eligible, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, who administers the plans, sends out enrollment materials, and individuals have 90 days to make a decision.

CoverTN creates a partnership between the state, small businesses and their employees to provide coverage for the most needed medical services. It's not a mandated program or an entitlement program; it is a voluntary initiative for uninsured Tennesseans to obtain private insurance. The individual owns the plan, not the state or the company.

CoverTN is affordable. CoverTN features no deductibles and pricing is simple and straightforward: \$20 copayment for a doctor's office visit and \$10 for most prescription drugs. There is also coverage for hospitalization and other medical needs. To promote personal responsibility, premiums vary based on weight, tobacco use and age and average \$150 per month, which is shared between the state, the employer and employee so the monthly premium is \$50 for each payer.

In addition to CoverTN, Governor Bredesen's multi-pronged effort, Cover Tennessee, offers new health insurance options to uninsured individuals in Tennessee. AccessTN, a high-risk pool, provides comprehensive health insurance options for uninsurable Tennesseans. Comprehensive insurance for children is provided through CoverKids and CoverRX provides pharmacy assistance to those without prescription drug coverage. The programs were overwhelmingly endorsed by the General Assembly in 2006. More information on all Cover Tennessee programs is available at www.CoverTN.gov or by calling 1-866-COVERTN.

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